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February 1, 2007

GENERAL MANUAL  
PA 130 - AGN  
Amendment No. 3 (Part 403)

SUBJECT: AGN - BIOSECURITY

Purpose. To amend Pennsylvania's policy of Biosecurity Preparedness and Response.

Effective Date. This Amendment is effective when received.

Background: This policy has been changed to allow visits to species of livestock except at the time of epidemic outbreak.

Filing Instructions. This Amendment should replace Supplement 1 Part 403 Subpart H of the General Manual.

/s/

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State Conservationist

DIST: CPM Holders

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480.1 Purpose

To provide Pennsylvania supplement to GM-130 PART 403, Subpart H – Biosecurity Procedures and Guidelines.

480.2 Background

Biosecurity is an important consideration for animal facility operators, regulatory staff, and technical assistance providers because of the variety of disease pathogens and the potential for periodic disease outbreaks. Human traffic can be a factor in disease transmission between livestock herds. Therefore, all NRCS staff with the potential of visiting livestock facilities on official business shall be knowledgeable of the appropriate biosecurity measures in Title 130-General Manual Part 403 – Homeland Security/Crisis Responsibilities Subpart H- Biosecurity Preparedness and Response and 130-GM Pennsylvania Supplement No.1 Section 480. Staff conducting inspections, providing technical assistance or other official business at livestock operations shall exercise these procedures to minimize the possibility of transmittal of animal disease. For an Animal Disease Outbreak situation, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will establish specific guidance determined by the nature of the disease. The Department of Environmental Protection will work closely with PDA if an outbreak occurs. In the event of a contagious livestock disease outbreak, additional guidance will be supplied immediately.

The PA NRCS Biosecurity Procedures and Guidelines reflect PDA and DEP biosecurity measures and are streamlined for continuity throughout the Commonwealth.

(130-GM PA.AMENDMENT NO. 3 FEBRUARY 2007)

## Title 130 – Agency General

### 480.3 Policy

(a) NRCS shall adhere to GM-130 PART 403, Subpart H – Biosecurity Procedures and Guidelines Level 1 in addition to the following items designated by Pennsylvania and our partners:

- (1) If possible, contact the operation owner or manager before arriving on site to determine what biosecurity protocol is used at that operation and follow the protocol if it meets or exceeds NRCS policy. Unannounced visits are discouraged, especially if the producer is unfamiliar with NRCS biosecurity policies.
- (2) Plastic slipover boot covers are no longer acceptable while supplying technical assistance to farms or operations. Plastic slipover boot covers are acceptable for brief visits to the operation for office or home visits. Rubber/durable boots that can be disinfected are required for field visits. The cost of purchasing boots is not reimbursable; however, it is a work expense.
- (3) When taking samples, wear disposable gloves and discard in a plastic bag and leave it on the premises for the owner/producer to dispose of it or place the bag in the “dirty” area of your vehicle.
- (4) Each government vehicle is supplied with a box of disposable boots, one bucket/scrub pan, one brush, one bottle of dish detergent, and one can of Lysol Disinfectant Spray. Each employee is supplied with a bottle of hand sanitizer. Contact your Area Administrative Coordinator to replenish supplies.
- (5) It is recommended to limit visits to operations with same species livestock facilities to one per day. Visits to farms without livestock are not limited. At the time an epidemic occurs additional instructions will be provided.